

**ALLOW LOCAL CONTROL FOR CONSIDERATION
HELLGATE ELEMENTARY TRANSITION**

WHEREAS, over the past two years, especially since the last legislative session, the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees has spent a great deal of time listening to and exchanging ideas with constituents over the issue of school district transition from a K-8 school district to a K-12 school district.

WHEREAS, the possible transition from a K-8 to a K-12 school district is expressly denied in our growing community by the criteria set forth in MCA 20-6-326. This law prevents the citizens in our community, which currently does not have a high school, from exploring the possibility of adding a hometown high school that would fall under the local control of our community and school board (Article X, Section 8 Montana Constitution).

WHEREAS, the one statement that continually comes up in conversation with constituents is why can't state law be changed to allow Hellgate Elementary taxpayers and community stakeholders the opportunity to exercise local control over their individual school district and decide for themselves if transition into a K-12 school district is the right thing to do?

WHEREAS, the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees believes that by transitioning the district into a K-12 school district, Hellgate Elementary would be able to continue the strong personal relationships it has built with its students and its parents. That continuing relationship would result in the lowering high school drop-out rates, providing meaningful high school graduation pathways, lowering the potential for school-based violence, and increasing student, parent, and community appreciation and happiness with the institution of school.

WHEREAS, the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees further believes that local voters should be given the opportunity to decide if they wish to create a new high school district that advocates collaboration and team building, promotes the integration of rigorous academic content with innovative instructional methodology in a safe and inviting environment, has a robust technological infrastructure, can offer smaller, more intimate learning environments, and allow for the quality of instruction to become the constant quantity and time become the variable quantity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees supports local control and requests the Montana Legislature support SB107, "Revise K-12 School District Expansion Laws", which would allow our community to assert local control of our school district and allow local taxpayers to decide if they wish to transition from a K-8 school district to a K-12 school district.

**Resolution Adopted on December 8, 2014
Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees
School District #4**